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State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services
LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



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Transportation Policy and Billing

****PLEASE REVIEW THE LEA MEDI-CAL BILLING OPTION PROVIDER MANUAL FOR COMPLETE LEA PROGRAM AND POLICY INFORMATION****

Q1. Can I only bill for mileage under the LEA Program?

- A. No, you cannot bill Medi-Cal for mileage without also billing for the corresponding “flat-rate” transportation. However, you may still bill for allowable non-emergency transportation under the “flat-rate” without billing mileage. Additional information is located in the [loc ed serv trans](#) and [loc ed bil](#) sections in the LEA Provider Manual.

Q2. For students in a wheelchair who receive transportation services as listed on their IEP, can the district claim reimbursement for transportation when the student receives a treatment (i.e., nursing/speech/occupational therapy/physical therapy) when the transportation is from home to school?

- A. Yes, for IEP/IFSP students, transportation and mileage are currently reimbursable between home, school and off-site for covered health services. In order for the LEA to be reimbursed for the IEP/IFSP transportation the IEP/IFSP student must also receive a Medicaid covered service (other than transportation) and both the covered service and the transportation must be authorized in the student’s IEP or IFSP.

Q3. AB 2608 was approved and is effective as of October 1, 2012. Are LEAs allowed to begin billing transportation under the new law beginning October 1st?

- A. Although [AB 2608](#) was effective on October 1, 2012, the provisions of the bill did not go into effect until January 1, 2013. LEAs may begin billing under the new transportation regulations as of January 1, 2013. LEAs may not bill retroactively for transportation services. Refer to [PPL 13-001](#) for additional information.

Q4. Can we bill for transportation to/from a covered service that we are not claiming? For example, the student is being transported to the County Office of Education (COE) for physical therapy service, which is authorized in the IEP. The COE is claiming for the physical therapy service.

- A. If the child is receiving a covered service on the same day he or she is transported, and both the service and the transportation are authorized in the student’s IEP, your LEA may bill for the transportation even if another provider is responsible for billing the covered service. If an LEA bills only for transportation, they should maintain documentation that another covered service was provided on that day at a different venue and verify that the other entity is not billing for transportation.

Q5. Can an LEA provider be reimbursed for transportation to special education Medi-Cal eligible students who are given medication on a daily basis at school?

- A. For an LEA provider to be reimbursed for transportation a Medi-Cal eligible student must receive a Medicaid covered service on the date of transport and both the transportation and Medicaid covered service must be included in the student's IEP. If dispensing medication to a student does not meet the seven continuous minutes of nursing treatment, it is not considered a Medicaid covered service under the LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program. (Title 22, CCR, Sections 51360 and 51535.5).

Q6. What is the definition of a Wheelchair Van?

- A. Wheelchair van must be operated and equipped in accordance with CCR Title 22, Section 51231.2. This State regulation defines wheelchair van requirements and identifies specific minimum requirements for wheelchair van operation and equipment.

Q7. Can a one-to-one aide on a bus qualify as a reimbursable service?

- A. A one-to-one personal care aide transported with a child on a wheelchair van or litter van would not qualify as a reimbursable service. If a THCA is required to be on a wheelchair van or litter van during transport due to a specialized physical health care service that must be conducted during transport, the medical necessity must be documented in the student's IEP/IFSP and the THCA service must be documented in provider billing logs, case notes, etc.